

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 INSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6257

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMCNSUL BRISBANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 353

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BANGKOK PASS SONGKHLA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE BOAT CASE REFUGEES: UNHCR REP MEETING WITH
RECIPIENT COUNTRY REPS

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 0966 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 03205 (NOTAL),

(C) SINGAPORE 524 (NOTAL), (D) SINGAPORE 494 (NOTAL),

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(E) KUALA LUMPUR 781 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. LOCAL REPS OF MISSIONS INVOLVED IN
INDOCHINESE BOAT CASE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM MET
AT UNHCR OFFICE HERE FEB 14. UNHCR REP BRIEFED THOSE
PRESENT ON THE "ROLAND AFFAIR" (REFTELS) AND
NOTE FROM GOM SETTING SIX MONTH DEADLINE FOR

STAY OF NEW ARRIVALS AND STATEMENT ALL REFUGEES CURRENTLY IN THE COUNTRY MUST DEPART BY JUNE 30. UNHCR OFFICE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED NOTE AND PROMISED TO TRY TO EXPEDITE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS WITHOUT COMMITTING ITSELF TO DEADLINES. AUSTRALIAN REP ANNOUNCED "CONDITIONAL" OFFER TO TAKE 150 REFUGEES ABOARD "ROLAND" OR ASHORE. UNHCR REP TOOK NOTE OF CONSENSUS OF THOSE PRESENT TO PRESS GOM TO RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE AND ALLOW REFUGEES TAKEN ABOARD ROLAND TO LAND IN ORDER TO ALLOW RETURN TO ALREADY ESTABLISHED PROCESSING PROCEDURES. HE INDICATED HE WOULD TAKE UP MATTER WITH GOM. MEETING PROVIDED USEFUL VENUE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SITUATION AND FOR UNHCR REP TO MAKE SALES PITCH FOR GREATER EFFORTS ON PART OF RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE SAMPAT KUMAR CALLED MEETING OF LOCAL MISSION REPS OF COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM TAKE UP LATEST CRISIS POSED BY: (A) THE WCRP/ROLAND SNAFU (REFTELS), AND (B) GOM NOTIFICATION THAT HENCEFORTH NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES WILL FACE SIX MONTH DEADLINE FOR RESETTLEMENT, FOLLOWING WHICH THEY "MAY" BE PUT BACK TO SEA.

SIMILARLY ALL REFUGEES CURRENTLY IN MALAYSIA MUST LEAVE THE COUNTRY BY JUNE 30. UNHCR OFFICE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED NOTE AND INDICATED IT WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPDEITE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT WITHOUG COMMITTING ITSELF TO DEADLINES.

3. EMBOFFS ATTENDING MEETING DREW ON GUIDANCE PER RER B AND ELICITED CONSENSUS THAT UNHCR SHOULD PRESS GOM TO RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE AND ALLOW THOSE ABOARD ROLAND BACK ON SHORE. SAMPAT KUMAR SAID HE WOULD PURSUE THIS WITH GOM. AUSTRALIANS INFORMED GROUP OF WILLINGNESS TO TAKE 150 REFUGEES FROM AMONT THOSE ABOARD ROLAND OR CURRENTLY ASHORE BUT SAID THIS WAS CONDITIONAL UPON OTHER NATIONS PITCHING IN. FRENCH EMBOFF INDICATED FRENCH HAVE IN PRINCIPLE DECIDED TO TAKE QUOTA OF 1,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM REGION MONTHLY, BUT HE WAS NOT RPT NOT CERTAIN WHAT PROPORTION WOULD APPLY TO BOAT CASES OR MALAYSIA IN PARTICULAR. CANADIANS HAVE EAST ASIA-WIDE QUOTA OF 180 BOAT CASE REFUGEES AND HAVE SUBMITTED 117 NEMES TO OTTAWA FROM MALAYSIA. BELGIANS, SWISS, WEST

GERMANS, AUSTRIANS WILL TAKE REFUGEES FROM MALAYSIA UNDER ON-GOING PROGRAMS. UK NOW HAS SET QUOTA OF 95 THAT WILL BE TAKEN FROM BOAT CASE REFUGEES ARRIVING IN HONG KONG. ACCORDING TO UNHCR FIGURES HANDLED OUT TO PARTICIPANTS, 911 REFUGEES ARE IN MALAYSIA, IF THE 282 WHO WENT ABOARD THE ROLAND ARE INCLUDED (SAMPAT KUMAR SAID ROLAND NOW HAS A TOTAL OF 475 REFUGEES ABOARD AND ACCORDING TO LAST REPORTS WAS SOMEWHERE NEAR AN INDONESIAN ISLAND).

4. FULL TEXTS GOM NOTE AND UNHCR REPS'S RESPONSE BEING SENT SEPTTEL.

5. COMMENT: MEETING, FIRST OF ITS KIND HERE, PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SITUATION. UNHCR REP ALSO ABLE TO MAKE RENEWED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SALES PITCH FOR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT TO GO BACK TO THEIR CAPITALS AND PRESS FOR GREATER EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH BACKLOG. SAMPAT KUMAR ALSO INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH HERETOFORE HE HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO GET INVOLVED IN MIXUP INVOLVING THE ROLAND'S PICKING UP PREVIOUSLY LANDED REFUGEES FROM MALAYSIA, HE NOW WILL APPROACH GOM AND SEEK RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE. UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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